

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 23, 24, and 26 to 30, claims 14, 15, and 17 to 22 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **II. Allowed Claims**

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 14, 15, and 17 to 22 are allowed.

### **III. Rejection of Claims 23, 24, and 26 to 30 Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a)**

Regarding the rejection of claims 23, 24, and 26 to 30 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a), while the merits of this rejection are not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate matter, claims 23, 24, and 26 to 30 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

### **IV. Conclusion**

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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